Bloomfield Citizen

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject political, religious, educational, or socialso long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1892.

BONDING THE TOWNSHIP.

Much interest has been manifested in the views expressed in last week's CITIZEN on the subject of bonding the township for stone roads. It is very evident that opinion on the bonding proposition needs crystallizing. Even those who are apparently heartily in favor of bonding do not appear to have well defined ideas, either as regards the object to be attained or the methods to of the Colonization Society want to forbe made use of.

starts from a solid position—that good roads are a necessity and that good roads cost money. As has been before the society distinctly caution all wouldstated in these columns, the system of be emigrants against leaving their homes raising money year by year for stone roads is in many respects the best that could be pursued. But it is lately encountering a difficulty, which threatens not only to destroy this method of rais- others. The statement is made that the ing money, but is breeding such an Society have received within the last few amount of ill feeling between sections of months a million of letters inquiring the township as to seriously hamper the about Liberia. As they can provide proper administration of the township transportation for only 120 persons a government. The difficulty mentioned year, they are in no position to meet the is that of the deciding where the stone roads are to be built. As long as the majority of the taxpayers were satisfied with the decisions of the Township kind would be regarded with no favor by Committee on this point, all went well, the leading Afro-Americans of New York. but the dissatisfaction has grown year They would look upon it as little short by year, until it is probable that another year will find the matter in the courts.

Dividing the money equally between the different wards is almost as absurd as would be the division of a workman the work of the Colonization Society, into three parts. With regard to the workman, it would be plain that the only efficient principle of division that could be applied to him would be division of his time. It is less apparent, but no less true, that the only efficient method of dealing with the road money is not to divide its bulk into parts for simultaneous use, but to apply it as a whole, first here and then there. The most important roads should be first fluished without regar I to where they repetition of the Cherokee and Arkansas

But however all might agree to this in theory, it is becoming almost impossible to apply it in practice, and therefore the proposition comes forward to raise at once a sufficient sum of money to pave all the important roads at once. It is he had an addition

lack of a proper survey prevented an extensive road-building scheme from such a scheme would find favor year. But some very important changes have taken place since then, injecting new elements of doubt and difficulty into the solution of the road problem. One of them is the fact that the Township Committee has committed us to the payment of the expense of a trunk-line sewer. What amount of money it will take to liquidate this obligation of the township can be but imperfectly estimated. Pending the determination of the bonded debt which this sewer matter will necessitate, conservative people are inclined to hesitate about adding anything further to their financial burdens.

A second difficulty is the unexpected movement looking towards the cutting off from the township a large strip of its most valuable territory. Many taxpayers were led to acquiesce in the sewer contract because it was streuuously demanded by leading citizens living on or in the vicinity of Ridgewood Avenue. They felt that this territory had not received that financial consideration to which it was entitled, and they were willing that the town should be bonded as a whole, for a benefit which would most largely accrue to Glen Ridge. If now it should happen that Glen Ridge should separate from the rest of Bloomfield, and carry with it a large and valuable strip of territory north of it, cautious people seem to think that it would be well to wait, and first find out what share of the sewer expense would go to the new village, and what be left for the rest of Bloomfield, before assuming new burdens. These two changes of situation just

mentioned, without the consideration of

others, have caused many who favored the immediate building of stone roads to be now disposed to wait and see what year will bring forth.

DELUDED NEGROES.

The presence of 250 delinded and impoverished negroes in New York City is one of the mischievous effects of false notions about Africa; it illustrates, too, the evil that sometimes comes from the misdirected efforts of philanthropists. About' two hundered of these unfortunate creatures come from the Cherokee Nation in Ludian Territory, and the rest from Muldrow, in Arkansas. From the harangues of ignorant or swindling leaders and the circulars of the American Colonization Society they got the idea that Liberia was a sort of New Canaan, and that if they could reach it they would be delivered from their present poverty and trouble. So, for a song, they sold all they had—their lands, their live stock, their implements and their household goods—and bought tickets to New York. It is said that the Cherokee party were crowded into cold freight cars, an outrage that deserves attention from some one. The Arkansas party were so destitute when they reached Savannah, from which port they sailed, that they had to live on bananas. They were very poorly clad, and beyond a few Bibles, they had nothing worth mention. On reaching New York the emigrants expected to be met by agents of the Colonization Society, But their coming was not known to any one, and of course they soon became a burden upon the charity of the city. What to do with them is a question

that causes some perplexity. Officials The ill-defined desire to bond the town | that will cost \$20,000. At the same time they disclaim responsibility for their presence. They say that the circulars of without an order for their passage to Africa. But the caution was lost upon and there is fear that it will be lost upon requirements of a sudden exodus of a great army of poor deluded negroes. But even if they were, an event of this of a calamity to their race. Believing that the negro must work out his own social and political redemption in this country, they are strongly opposed to and are collecting funds to send their do deluded brethren back to Arkansas and Indian Territory. Mr. T. Thomas Fortune, one of the most prominent of them, says the Society should be suppressed by law. He adds that 75 per cent of the colonists sent to Liberia within the past 50 years "have either died of acclimation. fever, starved to death, or relapsed into savagery." A wide dissemination of this fact would do much to prevent a emigrations and drive the Colonization Society out of business.

The Need of Police. If a record of the petty robberies committed in this town during the past year had been kept, the number would be found to be astonishingly large. The It is probable that nothing but the close promoxity of this town to Newark and New York renders it convenient for tramps, mendicants, bogus venders, coming before the public this time last alleged directory canvassers and other year; and, were the conditions the same swindlers to operate in. Another fact now as then, there is little doubt that appreciated by crooks and their kind is that in this town they are undisturbed by the watchful eyes of vigilant policemen. Two or more police on permanent duty is a necessity in the town. Suspects could be watched, and in many instances their business inquired into.

> Burglars in Glen Ridge, Burglars have twice attempted to enter the residence of School Trustee E A. Smith on Glen Ridge Avenue, near the Montelair line. In both instances the thieves have been frightened before accomplishing their design. The latest effort to get in the house was made on Thursday night. Mr. Smith wrote a letter to the Montclair police about the matter. The police of that town think that as Mr. Smith is a resident of Bloomfield, it is the duty of the Bloomfield police to look after it.

Eureka's Gift Entertalnment. Numerous gifts for lucky ticket holders exhibited in several of the store show windows about the town have excited quite an interest in the gift entertain-ment of Eureka Association, Knights of Pythias, which takes place in Union Hall next Monday evening. Nearly 2,000 tickets have been sold, and every ticket is a prize winner. The hall will undoubtedly be filled with a large and expectant crowd.

Death of a Former Bloomfelder. Mrs. Margaret A. Ball, wife of Mirk W. Ball, a well-known citizen of Newark dled at her home in Cottage Street last week, after a lingering illness. She had a large number of acqualatances in Bloomfield, of which place she was resident a number of years ago. Besides her husband, her family consisted of an only daughter, Mrs. John W. Omberson. Advice From a Newarker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN: SIR: I was much pleased to read in your newsy little sheet lately that the people of Bloomfield were talking about good roads; how they could be had, and what was the best and cheapest way to

Bonding the town for road purposes is looked upon by many as unwise, am sorry to say, and I wish I could make them think otherwise. Look at what your neighbor, East Orange, did. See what they have to show for their expenditure of money raised in this way. Why is that township so sought after as a place of residence, and at big figures? Ask a man why he went there to live, and the very first answer is : "Well, you know they have such lovely roads.' And they do. But as for "beauty spots" on which to build, there are none better than are found right in Bloomfield, and why not have the roads? them if you will.

But to many a debt is looked upon as curse. Yet I know many who have accumulated what they have just because of a debt and their anxiety to see that debt paid. I know it looks big, no matter how small, for those who have to pay it, and from many who do not stop to figure you will hear such expressions as these: "A debt of a hundred thousand dollars! it would bankand shipped to Africa free of charge. rupt us! we never could pay it. My taxes would be doubled," and many more such foolish expressions.

> For argument sake let us look at it. You raise now eight thousand dollars by taxation for reads, to which very few, if any, object; and what have you at the omce Hours: 7 to 9 A. M., 1 to 1 P. M. after 7 P. M. end of the year to show for it? Simply

Suppose you bond the town for \$100,000. These bonds would be eagerly sought after if made to run say twenty-five years, at four per cent. "That is all very well," some may say, "but how are we to pay this debt?" Look at figures. these victims of the Liberian delusion, and figures they say won't lie. Raise the eight thousand every year, if no more, and appropriate four thousand of it for the principal and four thousand of it for the interest. After the sixth year the saving of interest on the principal paid would give you about one thousand dollars to keep them in repair, and each succeeding year would add to this amount until it reached about thirtyeight hundred dollars, or an average of twenty-five hundred dollars a year for repairs, and all for no more than you

> As for what roads this one hundred thousand dollars would build, you know as well as I; but if it only built say twenty miles, and they were good, who could object? and see the good it would

Twenty five years I know is a long time to be in debt; but see the increased taxes it would bring you, and I believe before one-half gf those bonds are due that you people will be in one of the wards of Newark, and then of course they will assume that debt. Bloomfield stands a much better show for anexation than any other township for this reason, that we can put you in what was the old North Ward, which is largely Republican, and it won't hurt "our party" a particle.

The very best thing for you people to do is to get yourselves up in first-class shape for annexation, for it is only a question of time, and that time is short. So hurry up. "We have decided" to do away with those lazy old horses and give you electricity and now let's see you reciprocate. Vou believe in reciprocity don't you? INTERESTED. NEWARK, March 3.

Our Union Prayer Meeting. TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

Sin: Nearly a year has passed since the religious life of our community was awakened and stirred most profoundly during the week that the Rev. B. Fay Mills labored among us, all the churches sharing largely in the blessed season of refreshing. One marked feature of the movement was the union element, and for 483 BLOOMFIELD AVE., MONTCLAIR, N. J. some time before the arrival of the evangelist, the members of the different churches frequently met together preparatory to their coming. Most delightful meetings these were, indeed, and for some time after their departure, they were continued from month to month. Christians were quickened and the churches received large accessions.

During the "Week of Prayer" early in the present year, daily union meetings were held at the different churches, but since that time no meetings of this character have been held. They had always been well attended and promptly sustained, and there is an earnest desire that there should be one such

meeting during each month. TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1891, that last day but one with the evangelists, will BEAL ESTATE & INSURANCE AGENTS not soon be forgotten. The entire day was given up for special services. Preaching in the forenoon and afternoon, and in the evening to men only. Prayermeetings were held in all the churches in the morning and a union meeting at the Sunday-school room of the First

Presbyterian Church. The first anniversary of this day, still indelibly impressed upon many bearts, will be on the fourth Thursday of the present month, March 24, and the writer, a member of one of the churches, ventures the suggestion that it would be

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. quite appropriate and helpful to pastors and people to hold a Union Service on that evening in the place of each church holding its own. BLOOMFIELD, March 3

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